Indian workers in Mississippi

1415. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether hundreds of Indian workers, who were forced to work under inhuman conditions and had revolted against their employer in Mississippi (USA) during March, 2008, were taken back in the employment or they were forced to migrate;

(b) the percentage of Indian workers working abroad, who are denied the basic necessities even after solemn promises having been made at the time of their recruitment in India; and

(c) whether the aggrieved Indian workers get legal help from our embassies abroad or they have to fight their cases of their own?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) Information is being collected.

Job losses abroad due to recession

1416. SHRI P. R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian people who were working overseas and have lost their jobs due to world recession;

(b) the amount of loss due to their repatriation to our country;

(c) the measures taken or proposed to be taken to rehabilitate the workers who have come back from overseas;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Union Government has any scheme under consideration to give proper welfare measures to the returned overseas workers, who have contributed to the nation for a long period; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (f) Indian Missions in the Gulf Countries in Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar have informed that there has been no report of any large scale adverse impact on Indian workers because of global economic slowdown and recession, though there has been report of some job losses. The Indian Mission in United Arab Emirates (UAE) has reported that accurate figures of return of Indian workers are not available. It is estimated that ranging from 50,000 to 1,50,000 workers have returned to India as a result of the delay in execution of projects due to economic slow down and recession. They have further informed that most of the workers have returned to India as leave without pay with the expectation that they would be able to return to work in the UAE once the situation improves. It would be relevant here to mention that more than ninety percent of Indian Emigration is to the Gulf Countries.